

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting Notes
Meeting Date: April 6, 2005

Members present: Tom Sonneborn; Ernie Wheeler; Adrienne Fisher; Linda Horn; Mary Barton; Jean Haigh; Mary Koen; Sara Kittle; George Cross; Rosemary McLaughlin; David LaCroix; Evelyn Sawyer; Alice Angney and Eileen Guyette

Discussion/ Topic	Suggested Actions/Follow-up	Person Responsible	Timeline
TOPI C 1: Previous Minutes: The scheduled meeting for March 2005 was not held due to the weather. Motion to accept the minutes from the February meeting, made by Linda Horn, seconded by Jean Haigh, and passed unanimously.			
TOPI C 2: Department of Education Updates Annual Performance Report (APR) – the report from the State to the federal office regarding areas of compliance and other special education data requested by their office. Proposed date of submission is May 1, 2005.	Advisory Council would like copies of the APR when it is completed.	Ernie Wheeler	Include in May or June meeting packet.
IDEA 2004 Focus Groups – topic groups are being developed to discuss the implications of IDEA changes on the practice of special education in Vermont. The six topic areas of change are: Response to Scientifically-based Intervention; Highly Qualified Teachers; Individualized Education Programs; Finance; Resolution Dispute; and Discipline.	Would like SEAC letter sent to Karin to also be shared with the topic groups and Commissioner Cate.	Ernie Wheeler	
Expected date for completion of State rules to IDEA 2004 is July 1, 2006.			

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<p>DOE Updates - continued</p> <p>Hiring of a new Autism Consultant, Essential Early Education Consultant, Educational Support System Consultant and Monitoring Team Consultant has not been completed to date.</p>	<p>Status to be explored and reported on for May meeting.</p>	<p>Ernie Wheeler</p>	
<p>TOPIC 3 - Legislative Updates</p> <p>Early Education Act 166 – access to quality pre-school education previously funded at .4 ADM for a minimum 10 hours per week instruction from a special educator. Full day ADM for full day and partial ADM for partial days died with this bill last session.</p> <p>Building Bright Futures still being reviewed by the legislature.</p> <p>The impact on individual's votes and subsequent school budget defeats created a concern in light of the governor's unsupportive statements prior to the vote.</p>			

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<p>Legislative Updates – continued</p> <p>Caps on special education costs are being removed. The House Ways and Means Committee is looking at a cap on reimbursement not a cap on spending. The concern from schools would be the additional cost that would be picked up locally and the additional tax (Act 68) that goes into effect when per pupil spending reaches a certain level.</p> <p>Use of Medicaid reimbursement monies is being looked at to offset growing costs in special education. If Medicaid money is no longer used for anything but special education services, then preventative programs or initiative may be affected.</p> <p>NCLBA reporting standards – reporting by number or versus performance. Certain disaggregated populations will result in identified poor performing school simply by the defining characteristics of the disaggregated group.</p> <p>Through an agreement with Mental Health, the governor has proposed a 7% increase in their budget NOT to come out of developmental services monies. Some legislators are working to increase developmental services monies as well.</p>			
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<p>TOPI C 4: SEAC letter to Karin Edwards in regards to IDEIA Reauthorization. Send copies to groups revising the regulations for the State and the topic groups.</p> <p>Highly Qualified Teachers - what are the requirements to be highly qualified in each area?</p>	<p>Forwarded by Adrienne to Vermont Special Education Administrators.</p> <p>Obtain information from Ann Bordonaro on Chart that was distributed within the State.</p>		
<p>TOPI C 5: Corrections Letter - Mary rescinded her request to have the SEAC write a position letter as the funding was changed from the Education budget to the General budget already. The proposed increase may result in a 5.0 - 7.0 positions if the budget remains intact as passed by the Senate.</p> <p>Community High School of Vermont's access to local education agency services varies from site to site within the state and sometime with the status of the student (probation, furloughed, dropped out). Some adjunct faculty in community-based sites are funded through other monies than the Corrections education budget.</p>	<p>Issues regarding sharing of records from public schools and communication from probation to public schools has made programming difficult.</p>	Mary Koen	

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<p>Corrections discussion - continued:</p> <p>Multiple pathways available in public schools should be able to be accessed by Community High School sites...if not, why not?</p> <p>1970's saw the elimination of many work and education programs in prisons. AXIS and Upward Bound Programs were helping to inmates that wanted to take college level courses.</p> <p>State work camps also provide special education services to the under 22 population but often have scheduling or work completion problems due to the work schedule of the student.</p> <p>Vocational Coordinators are available in some sites around the state to make Vocational Rehabilitation and Department of Employment and Training connections for students.</p>	<p>Unmet Need - How can Community High School of Vermont work in collaboration with local educational agencies?</p>		
<p>TOPIC 6: E-mail to Parents on Homeschool Child</p> <p>Response to e-mail seems accurate reflection of the law.</p>	<p>Schools have the right to offer a service plan to home schooled students if they so choose.</p>		

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<p>TOPIC 7: May Agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus or Topic Groups 2. Other Goals for upcoming year 3. State Updates 4. Legislative Updates 5. Justin King – or IDEA 2004 updates 			
<p>ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>Higher Ed Collaborative – Autism Course in the Fall at Johnson State; ABA Strands in Autism</p> <p>Special Education strands to be held in Johnson, White River Jct, Lyndon and at UVM</p>	Council members should be on mailing lists for trainings	Ernie to see Andrea Wasson	
Motion to adjourn: Mary Koen, Seconded by David LaCroix			

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